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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 27, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 22 totaled an estimated 19.2 billion ton-miles, 10.0 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 34 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 589.3 billion ton-miles carried, up 3.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended August 22 totaled 423,537, highest since the week ended Sept. 29, 1984. Carloadings were up 9.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.5 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 8.3 percent in the East and up 10.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 6,520 cars loaded (25.8 percent) and coal increased by 11,949 cars (10.4 percent). Eleven of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 15 totaled 99,177 trailers and/or containers, 1.2 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 3,196,013 trailers and/or containers, up 3.4 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/22/87:

	Loadings in Week ended August 22, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,807	I	6,520	25.8	I	2,121	7.1
Other farm products	2,403	D	442	15.5	D	299	11.1
Metallic ores	18,546	I	1,072	6.1	I	2,124	12.9
Coal	127,155	I	11,949	10.4	I	4,395	3.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,914	I	1,787	11.8	D	1,274	7.0
Nonmetallic minerals	9,801	I	653	7.1	D	156	1.6
Grain mill products	10,736	I	268	2.6	D	54	0.5
Food and kindred products	11,134	I	356	3.3	I	70	0.6
Primary forest products	10,802	I	715	7.1	I	211	2.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,416	I	498	6.3	I	430	5.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,013	D	813	6.3	D	282	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	25,980	I	1,718	7.1	D	804	3.0
Petroleum products	4,904	I	7	0.1	D	474	8.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,410	I	926	8.8	I	316	2.8
Coke	5,005	I	1,496	42.6	D	147	2.9
Metals and products	9,398	I	2,263	31.7	I	35	0.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,552	D	2,165	12.2	I	181	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,881	I	1,135	14.7	I	20	0.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,105	D	293	8.6	I	111	3.7
All other carloads	79,498	I	9,250	13.2	D	167	0.2
LCL traffic	77	D	7	8.3	D	17	18.1
Total Cars Loaded	423,537	I	36,893	9.5	I	6,340	1.5
Corresponding week of 1986	386,644						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	13,170,683	12,751,805	I 3.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
33 Weeks ended August 15	570.2	549.9	I 3.7
Week ended August 22	19.2	17.4	I 10.0
34 Weeks cumulative	589.3	567.3	I 3.9

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